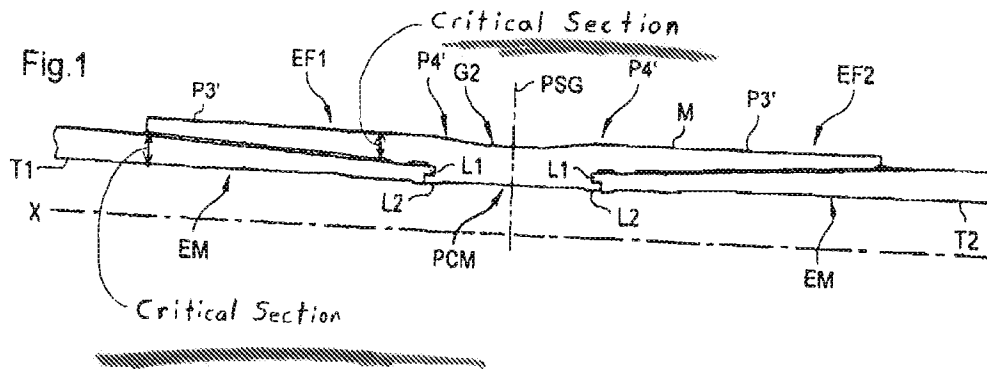


ATTACHMENT A

Application No. 10/580,585  
Reply to Office Action of November 26, 2010



The critical section on the male member is the "pin" critical section. The critical section on the female member is the "box" critical section. Thus, the annotated figure above shows two different critical sections.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 1 as obvious over Verger in view of Matsuki, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

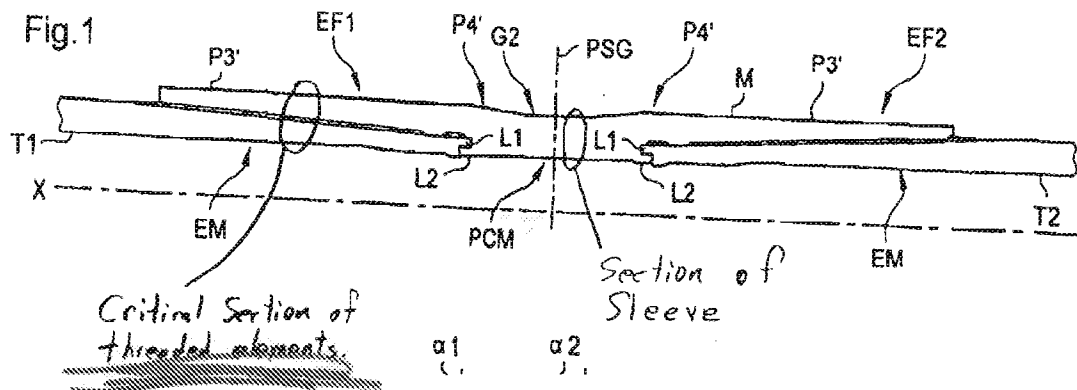
Amended independent Claim 1 recites, in part:

wherein the annular zone extends, axially, from an innermost end of the female thread on a first of the two opposing ends of the female/female connection sleeve to an innermost end of the female thread on a second of the two opposing ends of the female/female connection sleeve,  
wherein the assembly is configured to develop, after diametral expansion in the plastic deformation region, sealing interference contacts sealing the assembly, and the first and second tubular elements will be sealed with respect to a pressure difference between the inside and outside of the first and second tubular elements.

Thus, the annular zone (which has a reduced thickness) extends axially. The annular zone extends from one the innermost part of one of the female threads to the innermost part of the other of the female threads. One non-limiting example of the above-noted arrangement is shown below in annotated Fig. 1 from the present application, in which (G2) is the recited annular zone.

From REF + FILED  
02/28/2011

Fig. 1



Applicants respectfully submit that the comments above qualify as a Statement of the Substance of the Interviews conducted on November 17 and 19, 2010, in accordance with MPEP § 713.04.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P.

Philippe J.C. Signore, Ph.D.  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 43,922

Customer Number  
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 07/09)

Lee L. Stepina  
Registration No. 56,837

FROM APPLICANT  
INTERVIEW SUMMARY FILED  
11/22/2010

ATTACHMENT C

VERGER

FIG.16

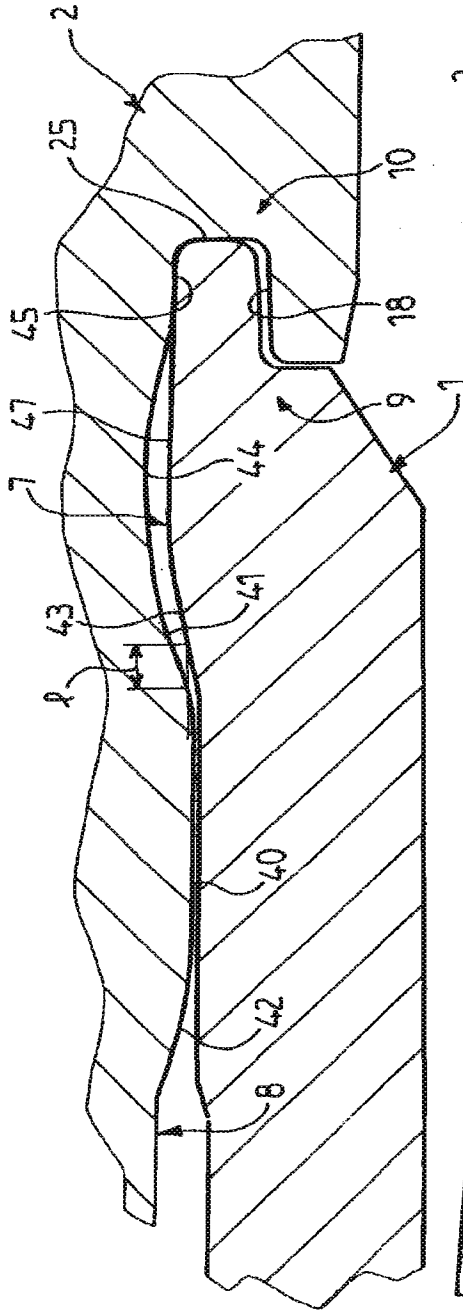
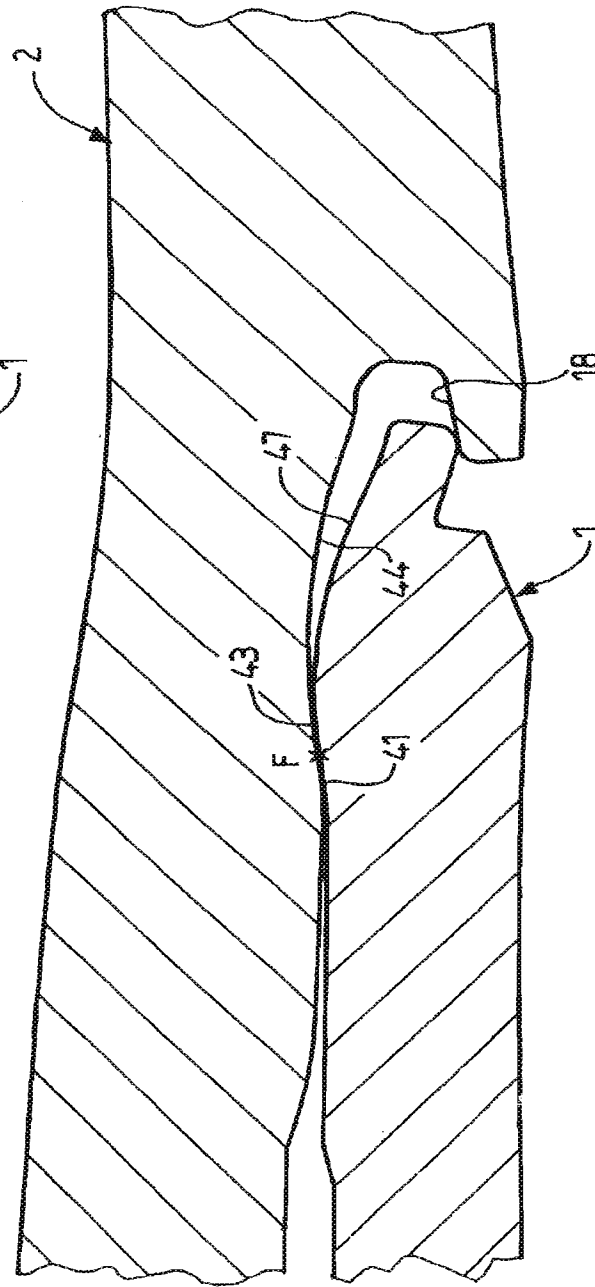


FIG.17



VERGEM

FIG.18

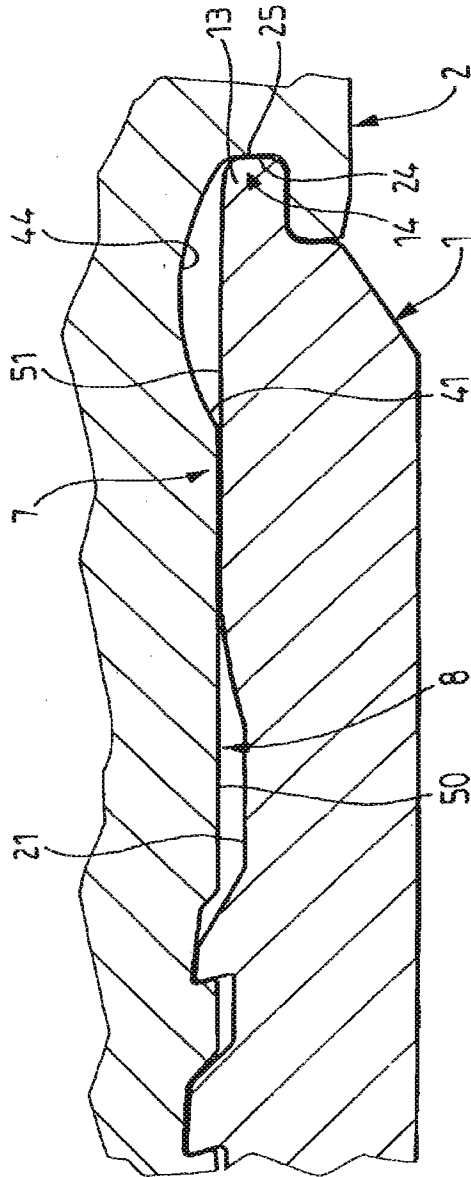
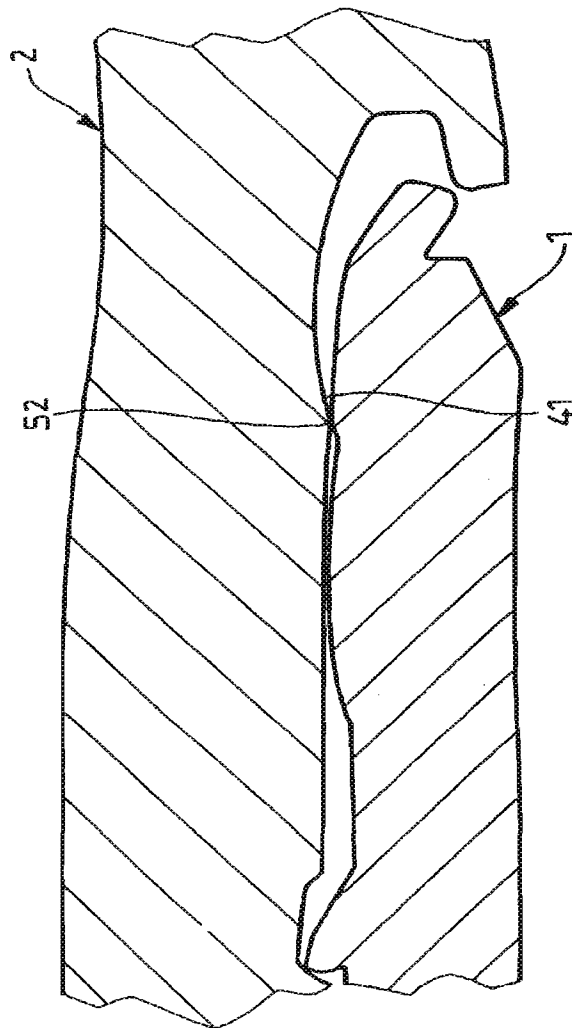


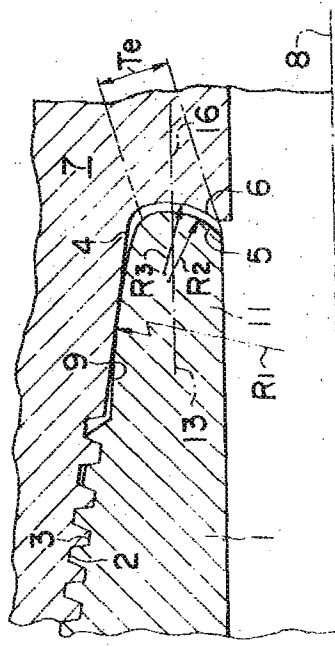
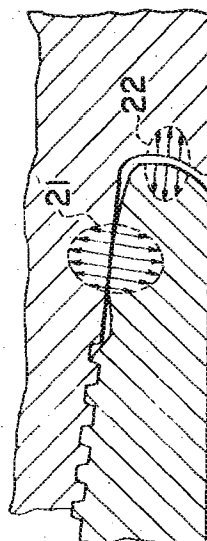
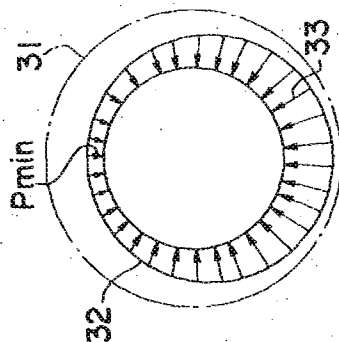
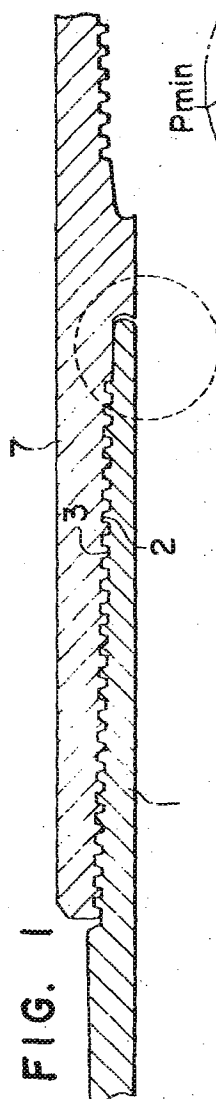
FIG.19





ATTACHMENT  
MATSUKI  
3,870,351

SHEET 1 OF 2



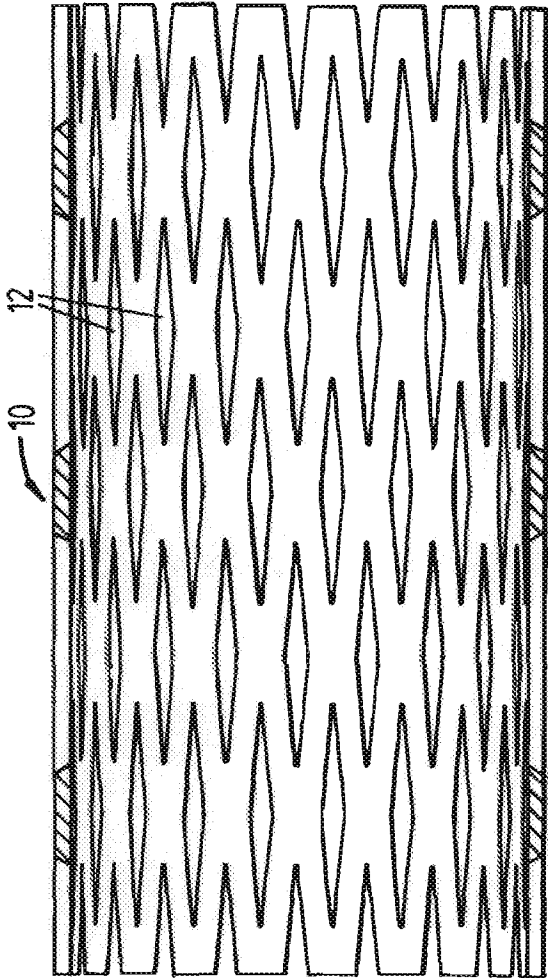


FIG. 1

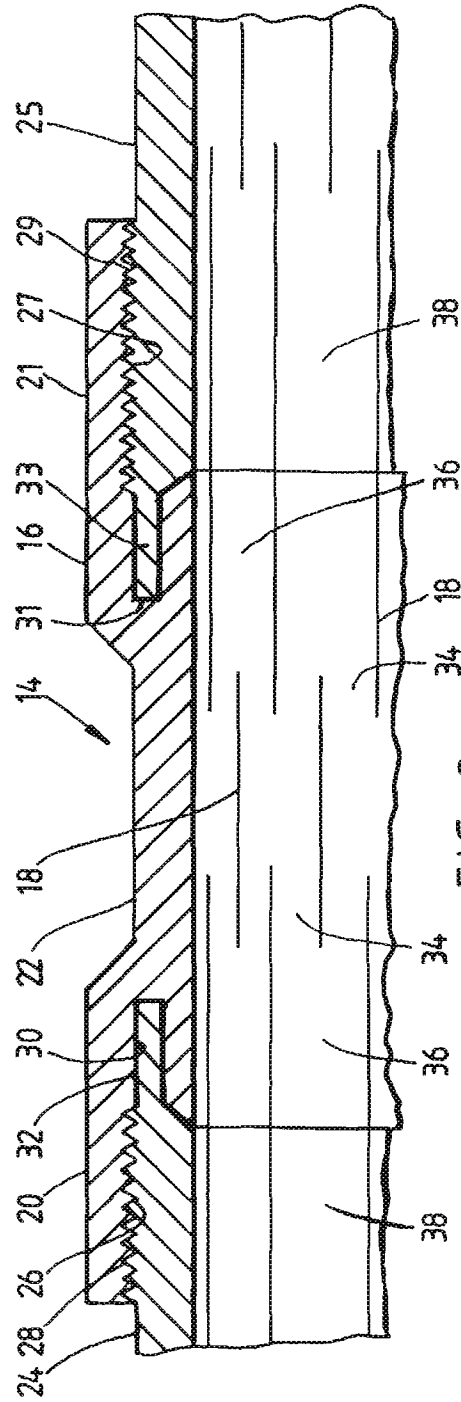


FIG. 2

KLEMENTICH

FIG. 6A

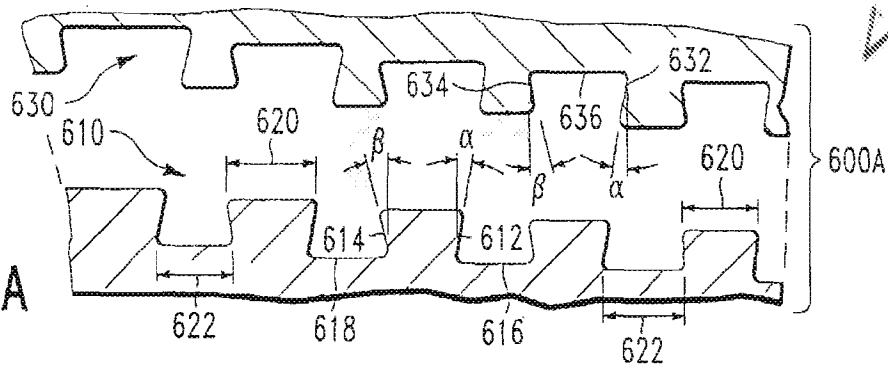


FIG. 6B

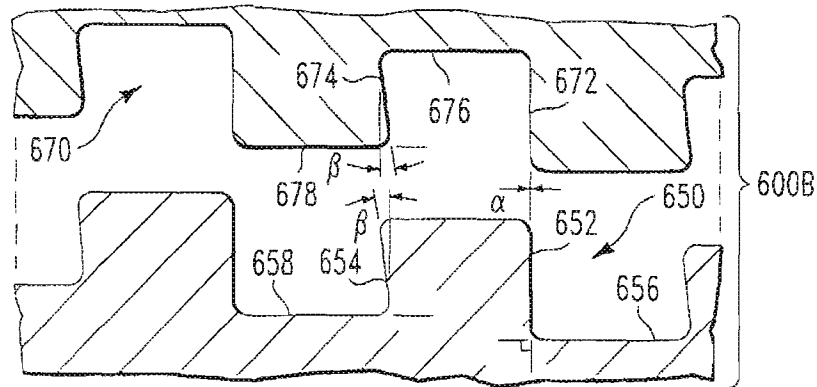


FIG. 6C

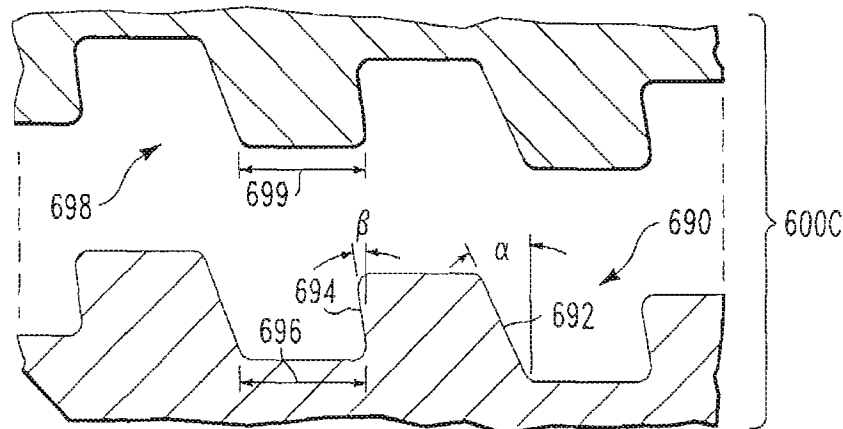


FIG. 6D

